The Importance of Worship.

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The Importance of Wirship.

Is.40:31 They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

INTRO. Pres.Eliot of Harvard, commenting on the worship chapel services of Phillips Brooks, said,"Prayer is the greatest achievement of the human soul."

Prof.Hocking of Harvard, speaking about recreation, friendship, love, and beauty in human experience, made this statement:"Whrship is the whole which includes them all."

Prof.Tawney of the Uni. of Illinois exclaims about worship,"It is indeed so important that one finds oneself sometimes wondering how any of us can afford to do anything but educate ourselves in this art."

Prof. Harry Weiman of the Uni.of Chicago,"There is no other form of human endeavor by which so much can be accomplished."

In the face of these statemnts why do so many attending church get so little out of the worship services?

Some come merely as spectators
As at football, baseball and basketball games
As at the drama or movie, not to take active part, but to be thrilled and entertained by the performers.
So in church they listen to the choir sing and if the minister has anything interesting to say, they listen to him.
But worship is an inward creative act by which the worshippers join together in launching out into God's great deep and entering the realm of eternal realities.

Others just breeze in, breeze thru, and breeze out.
You cant do that even with a Beethoven symphony and get anything out of it.
The country boy who came to Boston and attended a Boston Symphong concert.
Can we worship the most high God on any lesser terms. Worship is an art that must be cultivated.

Well, what does real worship do for us?

I. Worship reminds us of values that the world makes us forget.

The world puts first things last and last things first
Newdpapers, movies, social affairs
Selfish, competitive business, politics, international jealousies and quarrelings.
Problems, propogandas, panaceas ad nauseum.
Criticisms, cynicisms, caustic condemnations
No wonder so many dont know what they are living for.
Oh, to get above the world's fog belt and bask in the sunshine of the spiritual and eternal.
Worship reminds us of the the things of real worth in life which the world makes us forget.

II. Worship gives us perspective, a mountain-top vision of life. In daily life and grind we are so in the midst of activities, we are so close to the noise and tumult and strife of things that we cannot grasp the whole.
We cant even see ourselves or hear ourselves think.
We lose our sense of right direction
What we sorely need today is elevation and vision.
Worship helps us to attain them.
The whilr of the world is enervating; waiting upon Lord in true worship is the renewing of our strength.

III. Worship makes us see the evil in our lives
The affairs of the wwld deadens conscience: worship brings it back to life.
Some months ago a man returned $12,000 to the gov't in payment of duty on goods he had smuggled into the country. Why did he return the money? He dropt into a church service and joined in the worship.
A N.Y. jouranlist, growing weary of life, stopt at a drugstore and purchased a deadly poison and started for the park to end it all. On the way he saw lots of people entering a church. His journalistic curiousity got the better of him and he entered with the throng. As a result of that worship hour, he took a new lease of life, poured his poison down a manhole and began his battle for a new character and a new career.
More things are wrought by honest earnest prayer than the world dreams of.

IV. Lastly, worship helps us to rededicate ourselves to the highest and best in life, thus releasing for us spiritual power

3. Many a man, like Isaiah of old, goes into the temple to worship, hears the Lord speak to his soul and he answers, "Here am I, send me."

Man is rapidly becoming master of his physical world and by such mastery he becomes powerful.

Unless he learns to use his increased powers aright, however, he stands in danger of self-destruction. He needs wisdom. In the spiritual world man himself becomes mastered by the justice and goodness and truth and love and beauty which come from God into his soul. In worship these higher powers of God lay hold on us and make us truly great